



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 330 JOBS IN DAVIDSON COUNTY

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley announced today that Unilin will expand its operations in Davidson County, bringing 330 jobs and up to \$80 million in additional investment to the area. Unilin, a manufacturer of superior quality glueless laminate flooring known as Quick-Step, is the ninth recipient of an award under the new state Job Development Investment Grant (JDIG).

“Unilin’s decision to locate this new state-of-the-art facility in Davidson County will mean high quality, advanced manufacturing jobs for the area,” Easley said. “Today’s announcement is one more example of why North Carolina’s business climate is ranked number one nationally. Companies choose to locate in our state because of the low tax burden, excellent infrastructure and educational systems.”

Quick-Step is a division of Unilin Flooring, the world’s largest manufacturer of Uniclic glueless products, based in Belgium. Quick-Step’s North American division is headquartered in Thomasville.

“We look forward to expanding our presence in North Carolina,” said Piet Huyghe, president of Quick-Step. “The location is perfect for our operation and we have great confidence in the workforce here.”

The company plans to start construction on a new building immediately and will initiate incremental hiring later this year through the Employment Security Commission. These jobs will have an average salary of \$16 per hour.

Under the terms of the agreement authorized unanimously today by the state Economic Investment Committee, chaired by Commerce Secretary Jim Fain, a 10-year grant will be established. Over the life of the grant, the N.C. Department of Commerce estimates the project will:

- Generate a cumulative gross state product value of about \$261 million.
- Produce a positive cumulative net state revenue impact of \$4.4 million.
- Contribute nearly \$654,000 to the state’s Industrial Development Fund for infrastructure improvements in rural North Carolina. This contribution is required of grant recipients that locate in a Tier 4 County.

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